APPROVED FOR RELEASE

DATE: 1/17/81
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CONTENTS:

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2. PAKISTAN: DISCUSSION OF SOVIET OPTIONS

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SECRET

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2. PAKISTAN: //PAKISTANI FOREIGN MINISTER SHAHI IS ARGUING THAT PAKISTAN MAY EVENTUALLY HAVE TO REACH AN ACCOMMODATION WITH MOSCOW.

[redacted]

//COMMENT: SHAHI AND OTHERS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WANT A SOFTER LINE TOWARD MOSCOW AND HAVE EXPRESSED SUCH VIEWS BEFORE. EVEN IF SHAHI IS SINCERE, SUCH A MAJOR CHANGE IN FOREIGN POLICY WOULD REQUIRE ARMY SUPPORT, WHICH ALMOST CERTAINLY WOULD BE DENIED. MOREOVER, ANY TEMPTATION TO MOVE CLOSER TO THE USSR WOULD BE CONSTRAINED BY THE PRESENCE IN PAKISTAN OF MORE THAN 2 MILLION AFGHAN REFUGEES AND BY THE THREAT OF LOSING THE AID AND INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT ZIA HAS GAINED BY HIS STAND ON THE SOVIET INVASION. AFGHAN RECOGNITION OF THE DISPUTED BORDER AND PROMISES OF EASED TENSION WITH KABUL AND NEW DELHI PROBABLY WOULD NOT MATCH THE BENEFITS OF CONTINUING ISLAMABAD'S CURRENT POLICY.//

[redacted]